

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, today we all feel we are part of one great global family, cloaked in sadness as we try to deal with the senseless assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. I think every one of us feels very helpless and impotent that we could not prevent such a senseless act by a killer who killed one of the great soldiers and dreamers who was acting on peace. But I must remind all of us on this day that while we could not prevent the killing, we can prevent the killing of his dream. We must not let the feeling of helplessness and impotence descend upon us to not go forward with his dream of peace.

Instead, it must rekindle the flame even brighter, even harder, and we must work even more vigorously to bring peace to that region that has known so little, and to carry on the great dream and vision he had for that region, his home.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

IN MEMORY OF ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. BENTSEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, today the world mourns the loss of one of the greatest statesmen of our time, Yitzhak Rabin. A soldier who knew too well the price of war, Prime Minister Rabin spent his life in defense of Israel. But his legacy will be his pursuit of an enduring peace for the entire Middle East.

Rabin's time in office was short in the long history of the Middle East. That makes what he accomplished all the more remarkable—a peace treaty with Jordan, mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO, and the initiation of historic talks with Syria. All this was considered impossible only a few years ago.

Prime Minister Rabin's most remarkable accomplishment was the transformation of the Middle East from a region divided between Arabs and Jews into a region divided between those who want to move forward with peace and those frozen by the hatred of ages.

We here in the U.S. Congress must not waiver 1 inch in our commitment to peace. Our continued strong support for Israel and her quest for peace and freedom should be a tribute to the man who gave his life for it.

Today Israelis mourn the loss of Yitzhak Rabin and the entire world grieves with them. We should all honor the memory of Yitzhak Rabin by giving life to his enduring words: "Enough of blood and tears. Enough."

SMOKELESS TOBACCO CONSUMPTION AND REDUCTION AND EDUCATION ACT OF 1995

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, today I just want to notify my colleagues that I am reintroducing a bill that addresses a very serious public health crisis. That is the growing number of especially adolescents and children who are using smokeless tobacco. This bill would hopefully begin to deter the smokeless tobacco industry by raising the Federal excise tax to at least the level of that on cigarettes. We are seeing children being targeted constantly in commercials by all sorts of popular figures, trying to lure them into snuff and chewing tobacco, and saying it is a safe alternative.

Let me just point out to parents and so many people, this is not a safe alternative, and in fact, some of the health consequences of smokeless tobacco are even more immediate than that of cigarettes. In fact, evidence shows that smokeless tobacco contains 2 to 3 times the amount of nicotine that cigarettes have, and that people become much more subjected to addiction than with cigarettes.

What the users are at such health risk for is developing gum, tongue, cheek, larynx, and other oral cancers. Can you imagine anything worse? Every year some 29,000 Americans are diagnosed with oral cancers, and 8,000 people die of it; 75 percent of those are attributed to the use of smokeless tobacco or cigarettes.

Mr. Speaker, I take this well to say I as a parent get so tired of people seeing children and adolescents solely as consumers, and that if you can lure them in and tell them these things are cool, it only helps your profit and loss statement.

I think it is time we as lawmakers, and all of us in this country, join to say that these children are our future and we should not allow profits to get in the way, luring them in to be consumers, to getting them addicted to nicotine, and to getting them into habits that will haunt them the whole rest of their life.

Mr. Speaker, adolescents develop the habits that they are going to have with them the whole rest of their life during this period. They are terribly vulnerable, they are terribly vulnerable to peer pressure. I think to say that this is a safe alternative and to allow this to continue is wrong.

I thank the cosponsors who are joining with me. I hope many others join with me, and I hope we can begin to attack one more group that is out there preying on our children and going after their pocketbooks for their own aggrandizement.

Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing a bill that addresses a severe public health crisis—the growing number of people, especially adolescents and children, who are using smoke-

less tobacco. This bill would deter smokeless tobacco use by raising the Federal excise tax on snuff and chewing tobacco to that of cigarettes. It would also create a trust fund to educate the American public about the health effects of using smokeless tobacco.

While cigarette use has been declining for the past 7 years, the use of smokeless tobacco has risen for the fourth year in a row. In fact, since 1972, the number of users has tripled. Smokeless tobacco is now the only tobacco product for which consumption is increasing. More than 10 million Americans use snuff and chewing tobacco, and, sadly, 3 million of those users are under the age of 21. Statistics show that more than 35 percent of high school boys are occasional or frequent users. What is worse, the average smokeless tobacco user starts his or her habit at age 9; 25 percent of users start by age 5.

Smokeless tobacco marketers are smart, engaging in intense and well-funded marketing efforts. They target young males with visions of sports fame and rugged masculinity. They ease adolescents into their habit with snuff flavored with mint and cherry.

Most importantly, the health consequences of smokeless tobacco are even more immediate than that of cigarettes. Evidence shows that smokeless tobacco contains 2 to 3 times more nicotine than cigarettes, making snuff users more susceptible to addiction than smokers.

Users are at a serious risk of developing gum, tongue, cheek, pharynx, and other oral cancers and of developing cancers of the larynx and esophagus. Some 29,000 people are diagnosed with oral cancer a year and 8,000 people die of it—75 percent of those cases are attributed to the use of smokeless tobacco or cigarettes.

Children and adolescents who use smokeless tobacco are at a special risk of damage to teeth, gums, and bone tissues. Nicotine and other carcinogenic substances absorbed from smokeless tobacco use can aggravate human illness in progress and accelerate the development of coronary artery disease and hypertension.

Ten percent of the revenue generated by my bill will be placed into a trust fund for programs to educate the public of these health risks and for other programs to reduce consumption. Higher taxes and an educational trust are one step toward helping kids kick the habit. Join with me in protecting America's youth.

TRIBUTE TO YITZHAK RABIN AND ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. FRANK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I have not in my 15 years as a Member of this House felt sadder on taking the well. The murder of Yitzhak Rabin is one of the most despicable, frightening acts we have witnessed, because it was not simply the murder of one of the genuinely great men of our time; a man who, having excelled in war, a war forced on him and forced on his countrymen, a war they never wanted but a war of self-defense, a war